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a program of social work. The book is permeated with the belief that it is possible to have a new civilization in which misery is eliminated right here and now and that it will be attained when we socially apply the knowledge of the causes of misery already in our possession.

FRANK DEKKER WATSON.

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**Hasbach, W.** *A History of the English Agricultural Labourer.* Pp. xvi, 470. Price, 7s. 6d. London: P. S. King & Son, 1908.

American students of economic history and of labor problems will welcome this English translation of Dr. Hasbach's well known work, especially as the book as it now appears is not simply a translation of the German original of 1894, but of a thorough revision made by the author especially for this translated edition.

More attention is given in this edition than in the original to the development of a free laboring class in England, and a chapter is added on the agricultural laborer from 1894 to 1906. To quote from the author's introduction, "The first chapter of this book attempts to tell how the agricultural laborer rose to personal freedom [pp. 1-70]; the second chapter, how he lost his property [pp. 71-170]; the third shows his degradation [pp. 171-216]; and the latter chapters [pp. 217-353] recount the endeavors made to improve his position and to raise at least a part of his class into the class of undertakers."

In England, the agricultural classes have become more completely divided into three distinct classes, landlords, tenant farmers and wage laborers, than in any other country in the world. The possibility of rising from a lower to a higher agricultural class is, in England, exceedingly remote. While the agricultural laborer is the central figure in this book, the telling of the story of this one class involves the writing of the history of the growth of all three classes and their interrelations. This task has been admirably performed by the author.

H. C. TAYLOR.

*University of Wisconsin.*

**Lecky, W. E. H.** *Historical and Political Essays.* Pp. 324. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1908.

The publication of this collection of essays was planned by Mr. Lecky, but only four of them had been revised at the time of his death. Thirteen were originally given as addresses or contributed as articles to reviews or magazines; one, the "Memoir of the Fifteenth Earl of Derby," had been prefixed to the volume of his speeches and addresses. Like the last named, several others deal with phases of biographical criticism. "Formative Influences" is a bit of autobiography. It sketches the influences that diverted Mr. Lecky from theological studies and the prospect of "a peaceful clerical life in a family living near Cork" and turned him into the path of literature, taking

up the nine years of his life from the time he entered Trinity College, Dublin, until 1865, when his "History of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe" was published.

It is most fitting that the last volume of a veteran historian should contain studies on "The Political Value of History" and "Thoughts on History." The latter emphasizes the influence upon the life of a people of its fictions, its legends and its ideals, as he says: "Ideals ultimately rule the world, and each before it loses its ascendancy bequeaths some moral truth as an abiding legacy to the human race." A volume by M. Leroy-Beaulieu furnishes the title to a suggestive review, "Israel among the Nations." Colonial problems, especially the favorable changes of attitude in England toward the colonies in the middle of the nineteenth century, are taken up in "The Empire."

"Ireland in the Light of History" is interesting as coming from one so well informed on Irish matters as was Mr. Lecky. After a well-digested survey of the history of the Irish question there follows a brief discussion of some of its present phases with a decided bias against Home Rule and the recent land measures. This essay should be read in connection with "Old-Age Pensions," in which the author's conservative political attitude has much scope. He was a member of a committee appointed by the government to investigate the subject, and wrote the adverse minority report. He says: "No form of state socialism is more dangerous than the doctrine which has been countenanced by Prince Bismarck and which is making many disciples in England, namely, that an industrious man, . . . is entitled, if he fails in obtaining a sufficiency for his old age, to be placed as a 'soldier of industry' in the same category as state servants, and to receive like them, not on the ground of comparison, but of right, a state pension drawn from the taxation of the community." The present tendency in England "to aggrandize the functions of the state and to look to state aid or state control rather than individual or co-operative effort as the remedy of every evil" Mr. Lecky deprecates very much. Working-class politics, as he thinks, have become dangerous and have too largely influenced the elections. "The income tax is so arranged that a large majority of the voters are exempt from its burden; a highly graduated system of death duties is now nearly the most prominent of our imperial taxes; and the local government act of 1894 has placed local taxation on the most democratic basis. The latter has given the power of voting rates to many who do not pay them; and by abolishing the nominator, or ex-officio guardians, and the plural voting of the larger rate-payers, it has almost destroyed the influence of property on local taxation." It is almost a pity that he could not have added to this list of grievances the last budget brought in by Mr. Lloyd-George with its frank increase of taxation upon the moneyed classes.

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